



TOWN OF WHATELY
Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

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MINUTES
WHATELY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JULY 20, 2020

The Zoom meeting was called to order by Donna Wiley at 5:02 pm.

Present: Donna Wiley (Chair), Susan Baron, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle

Agenda:

1. The minutes of the June 15 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Scenic roads bylaw – discussion centered around the exact meaning and application of the bylaw that was approved at the town meeting on June 23. Some of this discussion was dependent on approval by the state of the wording of the bylaw. The bylaw deals primarily with trees within the town's Right of Way which may require a public hearing before alteration. It also covers stone walls within the existing right of way but is less specific about public hearings that may be required.

We discussed a desire to have a town wide map of existing stone walls to help inform discussions about their value and former uses. No funding source for such a project was identified but existing sources will be consulted for possible information. Low or no cost means of recording were briefly discussed. The first phase of recording stone walls will be focused on the four existing Scenic Roads.

We also agreed to revisit the list of additional roads that we had agreed to propose as Scenic Roads in October 2017. That discussion will be continued in the fall, by which time the new Scenic Roads bylaw should have received state approval.

3. Hidden History Project. Brief reports were provided by Alan McArdle on town boundary location, by Donna Wiley on old roads in town. Judy Markland discussed research on old schools in town.
4. Other Business –
 - a. Susan Baron offered a brief report on the 250th anniversary plans. The project and its budget have been scaled back due to COVID related funding issues. The events planned are currently a parade, fireworks and the results of the Hidden History project. Currently, Family Day and a town Gala have been tabled.

- b. Donna Wiley discussed the possibility of adding a new member to the Historical Commission. No objections were raised to the idea of doing so.
 - c. Judy Markland reported that the Center School report will be discussed at the Selectboard meeting on August 12.
5. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.
 6. The next meeting will be Monday, September 21, 4:30 pm, probably using Zoom.